

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/874,219

Examiner

Tri H. Phan

Applicant(s)

SAKATA, MASAYUKI

Art Unit

2661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the communication on 8/24/2005 and 12/16/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 1-3
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 12/16/2005.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

BRIAN NGUYEN

PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment/Arguments

1. This Office Action is in response to the Response/Amendment filed on August 24th, 2005 and to the communication on December 16th, 2005. Claim 16 is now canceled. Claims 1-15 are now pending in the application.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Nataliya Dvorson (Reg# 56,616) on December 16th, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIM:

The following changes to the claims 1, 7, and 16 have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant:

In claim 1, line 1, substitute the status of the claim "previously presented" to -- currently amended --.

In claim 1, amend the claim as follows:

Art Unit: 2661

1. (currently amended): A method of connecting a plurality of hubs and a plurality of terminals with lines, each of the terminals comprising a plurality of ports each of which is connected to one of the lines, comprising:

connecting a first port and a first hub of the hubs with one of the lines at each of the terminals;

connecting a second port of the same terminal with a second hub of the hubs at each of the terminals;

activating one of the lines connected with each of the terminals;

circularly connecting the hubs with each other; and

inactivating one of lines between adjoining two hubs,

wherein the hubs are physically connected only with each other forming a circular cluster and wherein the hubs are logical connected only with each other forming a linear configuration.

In claim 7, line 1, substitute the status of the claim "original" to -- currently amended --.

In claim 7, amend the claim as follows:

7. (currently amended): A network comprising a plurality of hubs and a plurality of terminals, wherein:

each of the terminals comprises a plurality of ports each of which is connected to different one of the hubs via a line;

one of the lines connected to one of the terminals is active and the rest of the lines connected to the same terminal is inactive;

Art Unit: 2661

the hubs are circularly connected with each other; and
one of lines between adjoining two of the hubs is inactive,
wherein the hubs are physically connected only with each other forming a circular cluster
and wherein the hubs are logical connected only with each other forming a linear configuration.

In claim 16, line 1, substitute the status of the claim “new” to -- canceled --.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tri H. Phan, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3074. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chau T. Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-3126.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street,
Alexandria, VA 22314.

Art Unit: 2661

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office, whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



BRIAN NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Tri H. Phan
December 27, 2005